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Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 AGRE-00 AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03
TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 EPG-02 SIL-01
OMB-01 IO-13 /110 W
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R 201140Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6070
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LISBON

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MZ
SUBJECT: MOZAMBIQUE GOVERNMENT COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ISSUES COMMUNIQUE ON CURRENT SITUATION ON MOZAMBIQUE

1. SUMMARY: ON JULY 17 THE MOZAMBIQUE GOVERNMENT ISSUED A LONG COMMUNIQUE OUTLINING THE DIFFICULTIES CURRENTLY FACING MOZAMBIQUE AND THE MEASURES THAT WOULD HAVE TO BE TAKEN TO REMEDY THE PROBLEMS. PROBLEMS WERE LISTED AS "SERIOUS SHORTAGES OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES" INCLUDING FOOD, LACK OF TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE, A DEARTH OF ESSENTIAL GOODS TO CARRY OUT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS, FAILURE OF THE GOVERNMENT STRUCTURES TO PERFORM PROPERLY, AND "PERSISTENT AND GENERALIZED ECONOMIC SABOTAGE." TO ALLEVIATE CURRENT CONDITIONS, COMMUNIQUE CALLED FOR INCREASED REVOLUTIONARY VIGILANCE, GREATER DISSEMENATION OF AND ADHERENCE TO PARTY DOCTRINE (MARXISM-LENINISM), BETTER INTEGRATION AND COORDINATION OF CENTRAL GOVERNMENT
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BODIES WITH THOSE IN PROVINCES AND IMPOSITION OF STRONGER MEASURES AGAINST ECONOMIC SABOTAGE. COMMUNIQUE ALSO CALLED ON NATIONAL SUPPLY COMMITTE TO EXPAND ITS WORK IN THE PROVINCES. END SUMMARY.

2. NOTICIAS JULY 17 AND JULY 19 CARRIED TEXT AND COMMENTARY OF LONG COMMUNIQUE ON DIFFICULTIES CONFRONTING THE

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COUNTRY. COMMUNIQUE WAS ISSUED AFTER EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF MOZAMBIQUE GOVERNMENT COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS. DATE OF MEETING WAS NOT DISCLOSED. COMMUNIQUE STATED THAT GOVERNMENT CURRENTLY FACED LARGE NUMBER OF CRITICAL PROBLEMS. SERIOUS SHORTAGES OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES INCLUDING FOOD, HYGIENIC ITEMS. PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS AND CLOTHING. IN ADDITION, KEY SUPPLIES NEEDED FOR THE OPERATION AND FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE ECONOMY WERE LACKING. COMMUNIQUE SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED SEEDS, FERTILIZERS, FARM TOOLS AND IMPLEMENTS, RAW MATERIALS FOR FACTORIES, INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND SPARE PARTS. COMMUNIQUE ALSO SAID THAT INTERNAL TRANSPORTATION NETWORK AND FACILITIES WERE INADEQUATE AND THAT GOVERNMENT STRUCTURES HAD FAILED TO FULFILL THEIR ASSIGNED TASKS.

3. COMMUNIQUE BLAMED CURRENT PROBLEMS ON THREE FACTORS: (A) WIDESPREAD ECONOMIC SABOTAGE; (B) AN INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO DISCREDIT MOZAMBIQUE AND (C) LACK OF INTEGRATION OF NATIONAL STRUCTURES WITH PROVINCIAL STRUCTURES. ECONOMIC SABOTAGE, THE COMMUNIQUE SAID, WAS BEING CARRIED OUT THROUGH A VARIETY OF MEANS: DESTRUCTION AND ABANDONMENT OF PRIVATE COMPANIES AND EQUIPMENT, PROFITEERING AND HOARDING OF FOOD AND GOODS, ILLEGAL TRANSFER OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE AND ILLEGAL EXPATRIATION OF GOODS. (COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THE PORTUGUESE HAVE MOST FREQUENTLY BEEN ACCUSED OF THESE ACTS, THE COMMUNIQUE DID NOT IDENTIFY THEM BY
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NAME.) "INTERNATIONAL CAPITALISM" WAS ALSO ACCUSED OF WAGING A PSYCHOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST MOZAMBIQUE. FALSE RUMORS ABOUT MOZAMBIQUE'S POLICIES (E.G. AN ALLEGED GOVERNMENT DECISION TO NATIONALIZE ALL THE COUNTRY'S CHILDREN) WERE BEING SPREAD AND RAW MATERIALS, MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT PURCHASED ABROAD BY MOZAMBIQUE WERE BEING SABOTAGED AND DESTROYED BEFORE ARRIVAL IN MOZAMBIQUE. FINAL REASON FOR PRESENT PROBLEMS WAS FAILURE OF PROVINCIAL AUTHORITIES TO BE FULLY INTEGRATED INTO THE NATIONAL STRUCTURES. CENTRAL GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES WERE INADEQUATELY REPRESENTED ON THE PROVINCIAL LEVEL, BUREAUCRATIC PROCEDURES INHERITED FROM THE COLONIAL REGIME WERE STILL BEING PRACTICED, "ENEMY AGENTS" AND SABOTEURS WERE STILL BEING EMPLOYED BY GOVERNMENT AND IMPORTANT LESSONS LEARNED DURING THE ARMED STRUGGLE WERE NOT BEING FOLLOWED.

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SS-15 USIA-06 AGRE-00 AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03
TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 EPG-02 SIL-01
OMB-01 IO-13 /110 W
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4. TO COUNTER CURRENT SITUATION, COMMUNIQUE MAINTAINED THAT PARTY AND GOVERNMENT SHOULD NOT DEVIATE FROM DECISIONS TAKEN DURING FRELIMO'S THIRD PARTY CONGRESS (HELD IN FEBRUARY 1977) BUT SHOULD INTENSIFY SPREAD OF THE PARTY DOCTRINE AND ESTABLISHMENT OF PARTY OFFICES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. THE COMMUNIQUE SPECIFICALLY RECOMMENDED THAT THE NATIONAL SUPPLY COMMITTEE, AND INTERMINISTERIAL GROUP RESPONSIBLE FOR INSURING AMPLY FOOD SUPPLIES TO THE COUNTRY, EXPAND ITS OPERATIONS, SOLVE BUREAUCRATIC PROBLEMS WHICH HAVE SLOWED ITS WORK AND IMPROVE ITS COORDINATION WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. CONCLUDING THE GOVERNMENT CALLED FOR A RENEWED VIGILANCE BY THE PEOPLE AND WARNED THAT IN THE FUTURE INDIVIDUALS CAUGHT CARRYING OUT ACTS OF ECONOMIC SABOTAGE WILL BE SEVERELY PUNISHED.

5. COMMENT: SERIOUS CONDITIONS OUTLINED IN COMMUNIQUE
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(FOOD SHORTAGES, LACK OF RAW MATERIALS FOR FACTORIES, DESTRUCTION OF ABANDONED PROPERTY) HAVE EXISTED FOR SOME TIME. EMBASSY DOES NOT KNOW IF THERE IS A SPECIAL REASON WHY GOVERNMENT CHOSE TO PUBLICIZE ITS PROBLEMS AT THIS TIME. IT MAY BE THAT MAGNITUDE OF PROBLEMS IS JUST

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BEGINNING TO BE KNOWN AND GOVERNMENT WISHES (A) TO INDI-
CATE THAT IT IS AWARE OF PROBLEMS AND IS WORKING TO
ALLEVIATE THEM AND (B) TO AFFIX BLAME ON OUTSIDERS, I.E.
ECONOMIC SABOTEURS, INTERNATIONAL CAPITALISTS AND
ENEMY AGENTS. GOVERNMENT'S WARNING THAT IT WILL "SEVERELY
PUNISH" ANYONE CAUGHT UNDERMINING THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMY
MAY INDICATE THAT IT IS PREPARING TO TAKE STERNER MEAS-
RES AGAINST ITS REAL OR PERCEIVED "ENEMIES." TEXT OF
FULL COMMUNIQUE BEING POUCHED.
DE PREE

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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